

AGRICULTURE AND WATER

AGRICULTURAL DISASTERS

AB 1952 (Florez) Agricultural Disaster Preparedness

Enacts the Agricultural Economic Disaster Act of 1999 requiring the state to adopt a disaster preparedness, response, and recovery program for agricultural-related disasters.

Agriculture

WATER

AB 1794 (Calderon) Water Replenishment District

This bill would revise the Water Replenishment District board by requiring that board members be elected by water producers – a system that would reflect other efficiently managed basins throughout the state. The bill would also require the WRD to establish a competitive bidding process to allow for public and Board review of all contracts, and thereby eliminate the WRD's practice of "sole-sourcing" its contracts.

Water

AB 372 (Havice) Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA)

Adopts and authorizes the project for flood control in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA), known as the LACDA project, enabling the County of Los Angeles to be eligible for State subventions funds.

Water

AB 1834 (Havice) Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Would enact a set of reforms for the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) as proposed by the State Auditor's report, including adhering to the Public Contracts Code, maintaining a maximum reserve of \$10 million and regular audits.

Water

AB 2317 (Ducheny) California Border Education Environment

This bill would produce strategies and tackle current environmental challenges on both sides of the border. Existing law prescribes civil penalties for violations of various air pollution and water quality laws. This bill would require that a portion of those penalties be transferred into a newly created California Border Environmental Education Fund. This bill would require the monies in the fund be used to assist and train governmental officials, employees and faculty of colleges and universities in the California-Baja California Border region on issues related to environmental protection and resource conservation.

Water

SB 1246 (Escutia) Competency

Since 1973, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act mandates that state and local agencies translate materials into languages spoken by substantial percentages of their clients. Last year, a state audit revealed that only 2 out of 10 state agencies were aware of their responsibilities under the act. This measure increases access to government services for non-English speakers and strengthens the monitoring of the act. It directs departments to conduct evaluations of bilingual needs and develop bilingual services implementation plans, creates an administrative remedy for investigating and resolving complaints, and establishes a private cause of action that is declaratory of existing law. The bill also creates pilot translation banks to provide cost-effective, quality translation services.

Consumer Protection

Brown Act

AB 146 (Havice)

Downey Community Hospital and the Brown Act

An act to require that the meetings of the governing board of Downey Community Hospital conform to the open-meeting requirements of the Act. In 1996, SB 1504 (Calderon), exempted the hospital board from the open meeting requirements of the Act. This bill would authorize the members of the Downey City Council to attend any open or closed meeting of the Downey Community Hospital Governing board.

Consumer Protection

SB 1607 (Figueroa) Credit Scoring for Residential Loans

Existing law regulates use of credit reports, and provides consumers a substantive right of access to information being reported about them, as well as procedural rights to challenge erroneous information. However, many lenders are increasingly using credit scoring systems, in lieu of actual credit reports. The rights provided by existing law do not reach these credit scoring systems. The bill would apply existing law to credit scoring; would tighten existing procedural time frames, and also grant consumers the right to information about the scoring system even if credit is not denied (often, the score merely results in a less favorable loan, rather than a denial.)

Banking

SB 2128 (Solis) Predatory Lending

Discourages the "predatory" home loan practices in which subprime lenders target senior citizens and low-income customers with high cost subprime loans. Lenders justify these expensive loans because they are serving "high-risk" borrowers. However, many of these loans have onerous terms and conditions which can only result in payment default by the borrower. This bill will provide consumer protection against such harmful lending practices.

Banking

AB 1373 (Florez) State Support of EZ/EC Program

Requires the Secretary of Trade and Commerce to develop a plan to maximize the state's participation in the federal Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program. The plan will include, but not be limited to providing bonus points or some sort of special consideration for applications from communities which have adopted comprehensive community development plans.

Economic Development

AB 2545 (Gallegos) Public Contracts and Small Business Interagency Council on State Contracting and Business Partnerships

Measure increases small business access to state contracting opportunities, facilitates discussions and input regarding the implementation and administration of this concept.

Economic Development

SB 2071 (Polanco) Los Angeles Unified School District

Develops a plan to reorganize the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to improve student achievement.

Education

SB 1324 (Escutia) Supplemental Instruction (Summer/After School Programs)

Due to the implementation of higher academic standards and student accountability policies, California school districts have seen a jump in the number of students at risk of failure. This bill ensures that remedial programs are available to every student in grades 2-12 who is at risk of being retained or who is not making adequate progress toward high school graduation.

Currently, there is a cap on the percentage of students the state will fund in these programs, which are offered in the summer, before or after school, between tracks or on Saturdays.

Although the governor has proposed raising this cap somewhat, remedial programs in disadvantaged, urban areas will continue to be under funded by the state. This bill also raises the per-pupil reimbursement rate for these programs from \$2.53 to \$3.40 per pupil.

Education

SB 2188 (Soto) After-School Programs

Allows school districts more flexibility in funding after-school programs. Currently, educational programs are given priority for after-school funding and only limited diversionary activities are offered. This bill will make funding for diversionary-after school programs more accessible.

These programs will attract more at-risk youth to get involved instead of being home alone or getting into trouble. This will help decrease the problems of delinquency and juvenile crime.

Education

AB 569 (Reyes) After-School Programs: High Schools

Assembly Bill 569 establishes the After-School Pilot Program for High School Pupils in the Visalia Unified School District, which will operate two school-based local programs. The programs include homework and tutoring assistance, activities to improve literacy, math skills and life skills, recreational activities, and preparation for the high school exit examination. They would provide a safe and supervised after-school environment for high school students to improve academic achievement, reduce criminal activity among juveniles, strengthen communities, and involve parents in their children's schoolwork and schools.

Education

AB 2645 (Calderon) Specially Designated Academic Instruction in English

This measure would clarify the need for specially designed instructional materials to assist English learners and would help ensure the availability of and school districts' ability to use these instructional materials when appropriate.

Education

AB 2585 (Cardenas) English Language Learners: Instructional Materials

This bill would provide English language learners with the necessary materials to learn English and thus, improve their achievement. Specifically, this bill will require the State Board of Education to adopt an English Language Development Framework (ELD) by June 1, 2001. This framework will be based on the adopted ELD Standards (approved July 1999) and the English Language Arts Standards (ELA). It would also mandate the State Board to adopt instructional materials based upon the newly developed ELD Framework. Likewise, the bill will require the State Department of Education to perform a survey of school districts to verify the purchase of ELD instructional materials and report to the on its findings.

Education

AB 1090 (Correa) English as a Second Language (ESL) On-site Training

This bill allows community colleges to offer ESL courses to employees of private businesses.

Education

AB 1006 (Ducheny) School Counselors

This measure recognizes the pivotal role school counselors' play in the development and direction of students in our public education system. AB 1006 would create a pilot program for newly hired counselors, giving them the support and training necessary to confront the social and family-related problems often hampering the personal and academic growth of their students. The bill also recognizes the need to reduce the ratio of counselors to students in our schools.

Education

AB 164 (Romero) College/University Voter Registration

In order to increase voter registration rates among California's student-age voters, this bill requires public higher education admissions offices (CSU, UC, Community Colleges) to provide students with voter registration materials.

Higher Education

AB 1297 (Firebaugh) Loan Forgiveness / International Medical Graduate (IMG) Bill

This bill creates a loan forgiveness program for UC medical school students who agree to practice in an Medical underserved area (MUA) for a period of seven years. The bill would create 100 residency slots for IMG's who agree to serve in MUA for five years.

Higher Education

AB 213 (Romero) Second CSU Student Trustee

This bill would increase students' voice in policymaking for the California State University by creating a second student trustee position on the CSU board of trustees.

Higher Education

AB 734 (Romero) Growth funding for Urban Community Colleges

This bill aims to increase access to growth funds for urban districts with large low-income populations. It seeks to increase the growth funding available for all community colleges by 1.5 percent and calls upon the chancellor of the community colleges to formulate a more equitable method of distributing the augmentation.

Higher Education

PRESCHOOL/ HEADSTART

SB 2192 (Soto) Head Start in English

Would allocate funding to school districts for additional and specialized language instruction in grades K-12 outside of the regular school day. This funding would allow principals to hire experienced staff to teach English learners language skills outside of the regular schedule, before school, after school, on Saturdays or through intensive Summer School programs. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be responsible for conducting outreach to the school districts and for evaluation of the program.

Education

AB 1319 (Correa) Early Intervention Program (EIP)

The bill maintains the EIP, currently scheduled to sunset January 2000. Designed to develop reading and literacy skills for Pre-K - 2, the program provides one-time training grants for teachers to learn the program. The teacher then acts as the -model, educating other teachers on-campus and within the district.

Education

REORGANIZATION

SB 799 (Ortiz) Grant Joint Union High School District Reorganization:

This bill would require that any school district that succeeds the Grant Joint Union High School District shall accept, subject to school site capacity, pupils in grades 7-12 who apply to transfer to that school district from any other school district that succeeds Grant. This bill would also provide home-to-school transportation for these pupils who transfer to the school district at no cost to the pupils.

Education

AB 2647 (Calderon) School Deficit Reduction

This bill would provide for elimination of the current 7 percent school funding deficit factor over next five years. Specifically, the bill would provide for a 2 percent deficit factor reduction statewide this year and 1.25 percent each year for the next four years. In the first year, the bill would provide approximately \$500 million in additional general purpose monies for California schools.

Education

AB 2266 (Firebaugh) Cash School Bond

This bill would provide for the submission to the voters of a Public Education Bond Act at a date to be determined.

Education

AB 31 (Reyes) Rural Area Schools: Assumption Program of Loans for Education

This bill extends the current Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) to individuals agreeing to provide classroom instruction in school districts serving rural areas. AB 31 provides that, beginning with the 2000-01 school year, warrants would be issued for the assumption of student loans for applicants who agree to teach in school districts serving rural areas. AB 31 is designed to address the growing shortage of high quality classroom teachers, and provide incentives to attract teachers for students with special needs and for schools serving rural areas or large populations of students from low-income and linguistic minority families.

Education

SB 1505 (Alarcon) Teacher Recruitment

This bill establishes several programs all intended to recruit teachers to teach at low performing schools. Also, the bill lifts the cap off of the salary which a retired teacher can earn if they return to teach or mentor and still maintain their full pension benefits. The Teacher as a Priority Program provides incentives to districts to reduce the number of emergency teachers.

Education

SB 20 (Figueroa) Education Technology

This bill would establish the Education Technology Grants Program in order to obtain computers for public schools, in grades 4 to 8. The grant funds may be used to acquire computers and for the expenses of installing computers, necessary wiring, staff training, and technology support.

Education

EDUCATION CONT.

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

SB 1503 (Polanco) Merit Scholarships for Outstanding Students

Institutes a program of merit scholarships for the most outstanding high school students throughout California and in each individual high school, math and science scholarship awards, creates algebra academies, and provides full funding for CalGrants.

Education

EMPLOYMENT

FREEZE VICTIMS: DISPLACED WORKERS

AB 542 (Reyes) Employment Development Department Funds: Valley Freeze

Assembly Bill 542 redirects \$1.8 million in funds from an existing state program to provide public service employment to displaced farm workers in areas impacted by the December 1998 freeze. AB 542 will fill a gap in funding to various service providers who need additional money to assist displaced workers without requiring new state revenues.

Employment

LABOR

AB 1889 (Cedillo)

Misuse of State Funds

Prohibits recipients of state funds or resources from using the state funds or resources to discourage employee unionization. Parties who knowingly use state funds or resources to discourage unionization can be held liable for damages equaling twice the amount of the expenditure.

Labor

ENVIRONMENT

BROWNFIELDS

Senator Martha Escutia

SB 324 (Escutia) California Land Environmental Restoration and Reuse Act (Brownfields)

Industrial and commercial sites with real or perceived environmental contamination remain abandoned, idle or underutilized throughout California. These sites, commonly known as Brownfields, sit idle, mar inner city neighborhoods, and represent an untold loss in public and private revenues. SB 324 will create a process to facilitate the restoration and reuse of abandoned industrial and commercial property in inner city neighborhoods.

Environment

SB 1847 (Alarcon) Community Health Clinics

This bill would make \$50 million in infrastructure grants available to more than 690 community clinics and health centers throughout the state. Currently, the state of California provides funding for the services of community health clinics but not for the infrastructure costs they incur. Many clinics are open 70-80 hours per week and are unable to increase the number of patients they service. The only alternative for patients is to visit emergency rooms. In 1994, the state spent \$650 million on more than one million emergency room visits by the uninsured. Many of these visits could have been avoided if clinics were able to accommodate more patients.

Health

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

SB 269 (Ortiz) Public Health Act of 1999

This bill would enact the "Public Health Improvement Act of 1999," which would increase the basic funding allotment to \$100,000 per local health jurisdiction or \$0.60 per capita, whichever is greater. The number of infectious diseases newly emerging or reemerging in California has increased sharply in just the past few years. The intent of this bill is to strengthen and enhance local population-based prevention services in California to provide for communicable disease control and community health surveillance activities.

Health

AB 1887 (Cedillo) State Health Insurance Purchasing Pool

Creates the California Health Insurance Purchasing Pool, a public-private partnership between the state of California and small private employers who cannot afford to provide health insurance to employees. This proposal will provide California small businesses with an affordable product, easy access, and an organized manner of covering their employees.

Health

AB 726 (Gallegos) Health Care Service Plans

Measure requires converting health care service plan's set aside for charitable purposes of the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, and thereby makes an appropriation.

Health

AB 43 (Villaraigosa) Children: Healthy Families Program: Eligibility

This bill raises the income eligibility from 200% to 250% of federal poverty level, and adds legal immigrant children. By liberalizing eligibility and thereby covering a new pool of participants, moneys in the Healthy Families program would be made available for a new or expanded purpose. This bill would also revise Medi-Cal income eligibility standards for otherwise eligible individuals to include any child under 19 years of age whose family income does not exceed 133% of the federal poverty level. This bill would revise the reaffirmation of eligibility requirement to limit reaffirmations of eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits on any basis other than annually to apply only to persons who are 19 years of age or older.

Health

SB 2193 (Soto) Medi-Cal Public Inquiry Unit

This bill would require the department to create a Medi-Cal public inquiry unit. The public inquiry unit would be required to respond to Medi-Cal eligibility rule inquiries and to correct eligibility interpretations, determinations, and beneficiary computer files. The public inquiry unit would also be required to provide Medi-Cal eligibility training to counties to maintain error control rates below federal tolerance levels. SB 2193 would require the department to provide the public inquiry unit with toll-free telephone access with specified capabilities and hire additional employees.

Health**AB 1594 (Florez) Hepatitis A Vaccine**

Requires children to be immunized for Hepatitis A as a condition of entering school. In addition, the bill requires the Department of Education to apply to the federal Center for Disease Control for funding of children from low-income families.

Health**SB 1479 (Figueroa) Midwives**

For licensed midwives who perform home births, this bill will replace the physician supervision requirement with a collaboration requirement. In addition, it strengthens the current disclosure requirements.

Health

HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SB 51 (Alarcón) Affordable Housing Bond

This bill creates the Housing Bond Act of 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006, which authorizes 4 \$245 million general obligation bond issues to be placed on 4 statewide ballots. Proceeds will be allocated to various housing programs for first-time buyers, senior housing, housing rehabilitation, Farmworker housing, and new rental housing construction.

Housing

AB 2343 (Ducheny) Urban Housing

This bill would exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act a development project in an urbanized area that, among other things, consists of the construction, conversion, or use of residential housing that contains not more than 200 housing units, and is located within a community or neighborhood revitalization area. This development project is also subject to an assessment prepared by a California registered environmental assessor. AB 2343 would reduce the redundant environmental review on higher-density, infill developments that meet local planning criteria in existing urban areas and major employment centers.

Housing

JUDICIARY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

AB 1705 (Gallegos) Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence Court Trust Fund

This measure establishes a Trust Fund to be administered by the Judicial Council, for the purpose of providing assistance to the local trial courts throughout the state improve, expand, and create domestic violence courts.

Judiciary

SB 1496 (Solis) Gun Buy-Back Program

Provides \$5 million to fund a state gun buy-back program administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The state would provide 50% of the funds needed to run a local gun buy-back program which will be coordinated by local police and sheriff departments. The firearms purchased under this program will be destroyed unless deemed stolen or needed as evidence. In order to encourage community participation, 20% of the total cost of the pilot program must be spent on a firearm awareness public education campaign created in partnership with a local community-based organization.

Public Safety

AB 1204 (Villaraigosa) Firearms: Prohibited Persons

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to reduce the incidence of violent crime by increasing the category of misdemeanor violations, which when committed by any person, prohibits that person from owning or possessing a firearm.

Public Safety

AB 1913 (Cardenas) Juvenile Justice Reform and Recidivism Reduction

While violent juvenile crime has decreased by 30% since 1992, in California, juvenile crime still continues to be a major public safety issue in many communities throughout the state. This bill would provide a balanced approach to combating gang violence and juvenile crime. It would provide for a combination of increased accountability, additional juvenile crime law enforcement programs and protecting witnesses and victims of gang criminal activity.

Public Safety

SOCIAL SERVICES

CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AB 2417 (Firebaugh) Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

Deletes the sunset dates in the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) to make both programs available to eligible immigrants, regardless of date of entry.

Social Services

FOSTER YOUTH

SB 2091 (Ortiz) Emancipation Services for Former Foster Youth

This bill would address the core needs of emancipating foster youth in the areas of shelter, family, education, and employment, to assist them to successfully transition to independent lives. It would establish a pilot program targeting youth between the ages of 17 and 21 who are in foster care and receiving aid pursuant to AFDC-FC or who are in foster care and receiving aid pursuant to AFDC-FC immediately prior to their 18th birthday.

Social Service

LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

AB 873 (Villaraigosa) Social services programs: Legal Immigrants

This bill would indefinitely extend current programs which require the State Department of Social Services to establish a Food Assistance Program for certain immigrants residing in this state and provide cash assistance to aged, blind, and disabled legal immigrants who are non citizens. Adds eligibility to for immigrants who arrived after 8/22/98.

Social Services

TAXATION

TAX INCENTIVES

SB 1421 (Solis) Earned Income Tax Credit

Creates a state earned income tax credit (EITC) equal to 15% of the federal EITC. The amount of the credit will depend on the family size and income level. Similar to the federal credit, SB 1421 is refundable--if the EITC exceeds the tax liability, the taxpayer would receive a check for the difference. Unlike the federal credit, filers who are classified as married or head of household are only eligible for the state credit.

Revenue and Taxation

AB 1923 (Cardenas) Childcare Tax Credit

This bill would provide a 50% tax credit to both individual taxpayers and corporations who contribute to a licensed child care facility that is being constructed or expanded. In order to receive the tax credit, the facilities that benefit from the contributions must either serve or be in close proximity to low-income families. The bill would also extend a tax credit to lending institutions in order to provide an incentive for them to lend to childcare facilities at a lower rate of interest.

Revenue and Taxation

AB 408 (Correa) Senior Tax Credit

Provides a \$250 tax credit for families who serve as in-home caregivers to a senior family member.

Revenue and Taxation

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Universal Lifeline

SB 1712 (Polanco) Universal Communications Service

Initiates a PUC proceeding to create a "lifeline", similar to basic telephone access for lower-income households for Internet access.

Telecommunications

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers Licenses for Specific Immigrants

AB 1463 (Cedillo) Driver's Licenses for Specific Immigrant Categories

Modifies California Drivers License requirements by allowing immigrants who are in the process of applying for "legal status" and who have obtained a taxpayer identification number, the ability to apply for a California Driver's License.

Transportation